

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Giuliano Votes for Measure that Fights Childhood Obesity; Discourages Consumption of Junk Food



Legislation supported by state Representative Marilyn Giuliano, R-23rd District, that would address the childhood obesity epidemic, discourage the consumption of junk food, promote exercise and encourage healthier diets among young people was approved Wednesday by the state House of Representatives

"Obesity in children has become a significant health risk for our kids," said Representative Giuliano, who voted for the school nutrition measure (Senate Bill 1309). "Children who are overweight usually end up as obese adults. As a result, they are statistically more likely to develop serious health problems later in life, including heart attack and stroke, type two diabetes, bowel cancer, and high blood pressure. The risk of health problems increases the more overweight a person becomes."

"Most children put on excess weight because they consume too much candy, soda, and junk food - and don't get enough exercise. High-calorie fast food, sweets and sugar-laden soft drinks are cheap, readily available and heavily promoted in advertising aimed specifically at children. Children get less exercise now than at any other time in our history. Many of them never walk or ride bicycles to school or participate in organized sports. Instead they spend hours watching television or working on computers," Representative Giuliano said.

"Banning sodas and junk foods from school vending machines - and requiring our public schools to set aside at least 20 minutes per school day for students in kindergarten through grade five to engage in physical exercise - is a step in the right direction as we work toward reducing childhood obesity," Representative Giuliano said.

The legislation was returned to the State Senate for reconsideration after the House amended it Wednesday. The Senate approved an earlier version of the bill April 27th. Both chambers must agree on a final draft before it can go to Governor M. Jodi Rell to be signed into law.